



September Meeting

The September meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on September 11, 2024 in the Webb Center at Carona, KS. There were 10 members present. Minutes of the meeting can be found at the end of this newsletter. Members in attendance were: John Chambers, Jack Evans, Brian Carlson, Ed Brinkmeyer, Jim McKeel, Paul Morgan, Michael Sheward, Rob McKnight, and Connie & Mike Payton.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at 7:00 pm, October 9, 2024 at the Webb Center in Carona.

Heartlands - YouTube

Check out our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMlkqWyCxftDlf_ezgw3UyQ

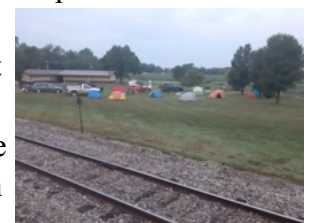
Heart of the Heartlands

Any questions, comments or suggestions, contact: Brian Carlson bcarlson@ckt.net 620-820-9665 (leave message)

Boy Scouts Visit Carona

- by John Chambers

Several months ago I received a call from Tanya Leddy with Wichita Boy Scout Troop #522 asking if we could help several of their scouts earn the Railroad Merit Badge. She said they had around 15 boys interested in doing it but had no luck with any of the Wichita area railroad groups having any interest. I told her I'd see if the Heartlands was willing to help. After a discussion with the group; I was given the go ahead to make it happen.



Morning at Carona

Labor Day Weekend was selected as there were train rides scheduled for Little Balkans Day in Pittsburg that the scouts could ride. The group could campout that weekend at Carona to attend the ride and to be at the museum for the activities involved with earning their merit badge. There were twelve scouts and five leaders that arrived around 9:00 pm on Friday night. I was here to show them where to setup camp and to keep the museum open so they could use the restrooms.



Jim Tomlinson of the CVMRC shows the boys how to build a freight car kit

On Saturday the group drove into Pittsburg and rode the first morning train ride for Little Balkans Days. After the ride, they returned to Carona, had lunch and started on the

Merit Badge program. Two Watco team members, Jay Benedict and Joely Phelps, showed some videos on Watco and the current railroad industry plus gave an Operation Lifesaver safety presentation. They also answered questions on what type of employment opportunities there are in railroading and the kind of education and training needed.



Kevin Blair and John Dhooge give the Scouts some tips on switching cars

From our Past

We will be featuring photos from our past for awhile.

Last month were photos of the Webb Center in September of 2003. These were taken in January of 2004. The first one is looking towards the main door. The second is looking toward the east end of the building.

- Larry Spahn photos



Announcements

- The Union Pacific Big Boy #4014 will be in Oklahoma and Kansas on October 14 & 15th. Part of its "Heartland of America" tour, its trek will lead it from McAlester, OK to Coffeyville, KS on the 14th. The next day it will travel from Coffeyville to Kansas City's Union Station. For more info: <https://www.up.com/heritage/steam/schedule/index.htm>

After the Watco presentations, John Dhooghe, Kevin Blair and Jim Tomlinson from the Cherry Valley Model Railroad Club showed what is involved with model railroading. The boys then split up into groups and each built an HO scale model freight car kit and got a chance in trying to solve the problem of how to switch cars out on a small puzzle layout that was built for this event. The boys really seemed to enjoy this part and so did the CVMRC members. After a short break, the group went out onto the museum grounds where I showed them the KCS 1023 steam locomotive, the SEK 1716 caboose and the Carona Depot explaining



Paul Morgan explaining a diesel locomotive



Scouts painting motor car sheds

each and its history. They then went up into the SEK 1000 diesel locomotive where member Paul Morgan taught them how a diesel works and how it's controlled. We ended the training around 6:00 pm with all the scouts receiving their Merit Badge. I also want to thank members Larry and Kathy Spahn, Jim McKeel and Rob McKnight for helping out on Saturday.

We ended up with 54 visitors on that day!

On Sunday the scouts painted the two motor car sheds as their community project and as a way to thank us for sponsoring the weekend. They left around 1:00 pm. The feedback I received from all of the leaders is that we exceeded their expectations and they were very pleased with how everything went. I spent from Friday morning at 9:00 am to Sunday at 2:00 pm at Carona. Even though I was very tired it was a great weekend and I recommend we try and do this at least once a year.

- John Chambers photos

Little Balkans Train Rides

On August 31, as part of the annual Little Balkans Days celebration in Pittsburg, there were two train rides. Passengers boarded the train at the intersection of Monroe and Elm Streets in Pittsburg for a ride south out of town. As with most of the rides, the outbound trip lasted 30 minutes before the train reversed direction and returned to Monroe and Elm. Both rides were well attended with 283 passengers on the 9:00 am ride and 267 passengers on the 11:00 am ride. Several passengers commented on how they wished there were more rides available. Heartland members working as train car attendants were Michael Sheward, Brenda and Guy Ferguson, Jack Evans, Denzil and Ivan Voorhees, Jim McKeel, Rob McKnight, Brian Carlson, Bryson Spahn, and Kathy and Larry Spahn. The Little Balkans organization donated \$1,000 to the Heartlands.

Museum Director Report for August

Report by John Chambers

- Had a total of 219 visitors from Aug 14 to Sept 8 from the 4-state region and these states: Texas, Nebraska, Arizona, Washington, Wisconsin, Louisiana plus the country of the Netherlands.
- On August 31st we had at least 54 visitors sign the book which includes the 16 from the Boy Scout troop. This was one of the busiest days of the year. A big thank you to the following Heartlands members who came out to help that day: Paul Morgan, Rob McKnight, Jim McKeel, Larry and Kathy Spahn. I would not be surprised if we actually had more on this day as I'm sure several never signed the guest book.
- We had many donations during the month from several people.
 - Lance Garrels from Manhattan donated several Katy railroad items including a 1956 train register book from Parsons. He has also donated a large Santa Fe sign that member Daniel Archer is going to transport to Carona from Manhattan.
 - Ben Taylor from Elk City donated a 1908 Santa Fe plat map of Cherryvale.
 - Kevin Blair of Chanute donated several Katy items plus an HO model of a KCS passenger car. He says this is the first group of items we will eventually receive.
 - Doug Baty of Parsons donated a couple of very rare Missouri Pacific Joplin District conductors train register books from 1906 and 1908. They were found in the attic of a house they were cleaning out.
 - Larry Stringer from Parsons called me and said he had found some items while he was cleaning out his shop. Larry is a longtime motorcar enthusiast who was a very good friend of member Jean O'Dell. Jean was instrumental in getting our federal nonprofit status completed and was our motorcar ride coordinator for many years. He was also one of our early Presidents and supporters. Larry donated several more Katy items including a yard limit sign. Larry had previously donated his Katy motorcar which is in one of the motorcar sheds. It was a busy month with many visitors and activities.

Missouri Pacific Emblem

The restoration of the Missouri Pacific emblem has been completed. This emblem used to be on the MOPAC Coffeyville, KS office that was later acquired by Watco. As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, the emblem needed a great deal of love and care. Through the hard work of Kevin Anselmi, the emblem has been restored and now is on display in the Morgan Addition. Heartlands members working, Rob McKnight built a stand for the emblem and it greets visitors upon entry into the newest part of our museum. Our thanks to Kevin, Rob and those responsible in salvaging this iconic symbol of the Missouri Pacific.



- Brian Carlson photos

September 11, 2024 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The September 11, 2024 meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was brought to order by Secretary Brian Carlson at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes of previous meeting: Jack Evans moved to accept the minutes as mailed. Michael Sheward seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: After the presentation of the treasurer's report by treasurer Brian Carlson, Jim McKeel moved and Paul Morgan seconded the motion to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was passed by the membership in attendance.

Additional items reported by Treasurer Brian Carlson:

- Report given on the recent Sunflower Summer Program results.
- New brochures have been ordered and are being made.
- Currently working on getting accounts setup for sales tax reporting in the states of Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma.
- Will be getting the driveway announcement device ordered.

Old Business:

Little Balkan Train Rides:

The two rides were well attended with 283 passengers on the 9:00 am ride and 267 passengers on the 11:00 am ride. Heartland members working as car attendants were Michael Sheward, Brenda and Guy Ferguson, Jack Evans, Denzil and Ivan Voorhees, Jim McKeel, Rob McKnight, Brian Carlson, Bryson Spahn, and Kathy and Larry Spahn. The Little Balkans organization donated \$1,000 to the Heartlands.

Old Business Discussons:

Items discussed by no action taken:

- Hot water heater for the restrooms needs to be acquired and installed.
- Need some plexiglass for the model train layout. Looking for 3/16" to 1/4" thick plexiglass in 4' sections. Will need about seven.

Train Show Report:

- Rob McKnight reported that the next train show he would be attending would be September 21, 2024 in Springfield, MO.
- He also mentioned that on October 5 at 1:00 pm, Circle Cinema in Tulsa will be having an art gallery opening & reception followed by a selection of train-related short films.

New Business:

Artist Alley Rides:

Two, one hour train rides are scheduled to depart the Chanute depot, one at 9:30 am and the other at 1:00 pm on September 28, 2024. Members working the rides should be at the Chanute depot at 9:00 am.

Wichita Boy Scouts Visit:

Eleven scouts and five adults from Boy Scout Troop #522 were at the museum on Labor Day weekend to earn the scouting railroad merit badge. John Chambers was on hand to assist in the training. The scouts rode the train on Saturday at the Little Balkans Days celebration in Pittsburg. After the ride the troop returned to the Webb Center in Carona for more training. The scouts also scraped and repainted the two motor car sheds at the museum as part of their project. John Chambers arrived at 9:00 am on Friday and stayed at the museum until 2:00 pm Sunday working with the scouts. John was thanked by those present for his time and work on this project. Paul Morgan, Rob McKnight, Jim McKeel and Kathy and Larry Spahn came out after the train rides to assist with visitors. For the day, there were 54 visitors to the museum.

Missouri Pacific Emblem:

The Missouri Pacific emblem has been installed in the stand that Rob McKnight constructed and the restored MOP emblem from the Coffeyville office is now on display in the Morgan Center.

New Guttering:

Kepley Guttering, came out on August 20th and installed the new guttering on the south porch of the Webb Center. This should help in directing the water away from the building. We may need some extensions on the end of the downspouts to get the water further away from the building.

T-Shirts:

Brian picked up 24 large shirts to fill in a gap in our inventory. We are still working on what type of shirts and the design of the shirts for our next round of ordering.

Jack Evans Donation:

Jack Evans donated a yellow bench to the Heartlands. Larry Spahn assisted Jack in bringing it out to Carona.

Monthly Museum and Visitors Report:

John Chambers gave his museum and visitors report:

- Had a total of 219 visitors from Aug 14 to Sept 8 from the 4-state region and these states: Texas, Nebraska, Arizona, Washington, Wisconsin, Louisiana plus the country of the Netherlands.
- On August 31st we had at least 54 visitors sign the book which includes the 16 from the Boy Scout troop. This was one of the busiest days of the year.
- We had many donations during the month from several people.

Other Items:

- The annual meeting will be held on November 9, 2024 at the Webb Center. Lunch will begin at 12:00 pm with the meeting beginning at 1:00 pm. Suggestions were made in regards to the meal for the lunch. Options will be explored and presented to the group at the October meeting.
- Jim McKeel moved to cancel the December meeting, John Chambers seconded the motion and the motion was passed by those present.
- The Union Pacific Big Boy, #4014 will be passing through the area. It is scheduled to leave McAlester, OK on Monday October 14 and travel to Coffeyville, KS. On October 15, it will depart Coffeyville on its way to Union Station in Kansas City.
- Jack Evans announced that Big Brutus has moved to a Class 2 tourism location.
- John Chambers announced that Darrell Cave has completed the paperwork to obtain signage for the museum.

Jack Evans moved to adjourn the meeting. Paul Morgan seconded the motion and it passed by the membership present. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.